

29 November 1954

MEMO FOR THE RECORD OF THE CLARK COMMITTEE

1. Colonel Miller started the day in his office by stating that in his estimation the only way to arrive at a logical conclusion on the question of streamlining or reduction of cost, was to put a straight, across-the-board reduction order at the top of the Agency, and then leave it up to the Agency itself to come up with recommendations as to where to cut or reduce. As he put it, "First you should tell us about what you do, why you do it, and by what authority; then, if we said arbitrarily to reduce your operation by 25%, it's up to you to tell us where you'd do it. Of course if it were up to me, I'd throw out all your cold war efforts if I had to make a cut". When pressed as to what he meant by "cold war" he explained he meant the DD(P) efforts, indicating his interest in DD(I).

2. OCI. General Christiansen and Mr. Feley joined the task force today. As usual, Miller did most of the questioning, although the General's interest surrounded those of duplication of effort, where and if there existed such, and by what authority OCI operated.

3. There was considerable confusion in Miller's mind as to where NSA, FBID, and OCI fitted into the picture. He was also interested in reliability of assessments resulting from intercept. His questioning centered on the capabilities of individuals and their ability to assume a responsibility for determination that would prove bona fide.

4. As McGruder put it, "Your office will be judged on degree of reliability. How often do you have to qualify your statements?"

5. On the subject of duplication of effort and the reason for OCI's existence, Mr. Sheldon gave the task force the most satisfactory answer to date, which seemed to be accepted at face value, pointing out that OCI's contributions were unbiased, factual and were not intended to sway any political or financial issue. In this respect he pointed out the overall "central" responsibility of the Agency to the US Government, and dispelled the idea that OCI was just a daily newspaper.

6. General Christiansen was interested in what degree of cooperation was afforded OCI by other IAC members, and to what degree OCI got or did not get intelligence information acquired by those allied services.

7. Considerable time was devoted by the task force to questions pertaining to personnel welfare ("How big a turnover do you have; what do you do to keep up the interest of your employees, etc."). All of the task force participated energetically in this discussion. As I have noted earlier, they are still concerned over reports of dissatisfaction among the working level.

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8. The budget within OCI was a target of interest to the task force.

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[REDACTED] Colonel Miller was quite concerned over the fact that funds were interchangeable within an office to suit a given need. He asked if Congress was aware of this prerogative.

9. On the subject of security, Colonel Miller went into great detail on the "whys and wherefores"; his contention being that restrictions imposed are unrealistic, and far too stringent. He felt that because of this, much of the worth of our work was impeded. Mr. Sheldon pointed out that principally this was due to an international agreement, to which we were wed, regardless.

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cc: [REDACTED]

Inspector General

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the Central Intelligence Agency.

Date 5/15/92 Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP88-00374R000100260041-7

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